The House That Jack Built

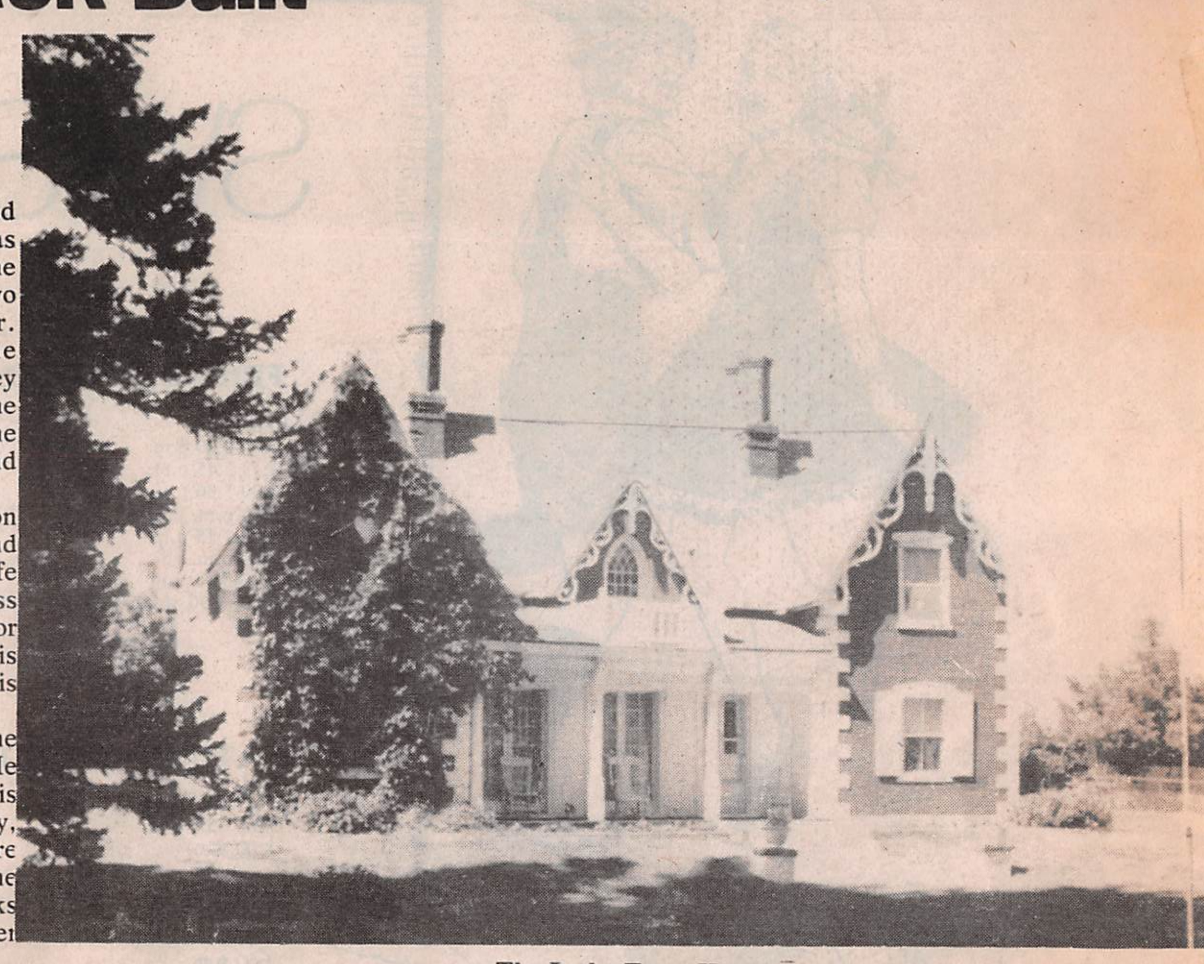
John Watkins was born in Maidstone, England, on April 13, 1834. His father called him "Jack". When he was 17, he married Margaret Ackhurst. They joined the LDS Church in 1852, and soon came to America. They and their two children crossed the plains with the famed Martin Handcart Company, nearly losing their lives.

Shortly after arriving in Salt Lake, they moved to Provo, where the rapidly growing community was in need of skills as a builder and an architect. With the consent of Margaret, he followed an accepted Mormon Doctrine, plural marriage, and married Harriet Steel and later Mary Ann Sawyer.

John was active in the Provo Band and traveled with it to some of the other colonies, including the "Provo Valley", where they visited Heber City and the other settlements. He became enthused with this valley and decided to move his family and settle in what is now known as Midway. At first he built a home in Fort Midway when the two settlements came together. Later, after they found the indians to be friendly and they were able to move out of the Fort, he bought a lot on the northeast corner of Center and Main Street.

In 1867 he built a rock home on the first lot with three rooms and each with a fireplace. Each wife had a room of her own and across the back was a large room for dining for all the families. This is now at 22 West 1st South, and is much as it was originally.

He then began work on the plans for his "dream house." He established a lime kiln near his rock house and finding good clay, made his own bricks. These were the first bricks made in the valley. White sandstone blocks were quarried for the corner stones.



The Lethe Tatge Home



MIDWAY

SWISS DAYS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

10:00 a.m.	Swiss Market Opens
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Arthur Brogli, Yodeler
3:15-3.45 p.m.	Midway Children's Chorus
4:00-5:30 p.m.	Arthur Brogli, Yodeler
6:00 p.m.	Parade
6:45-7:15 p.m.	Midway Band
7:30 p.m.	Musical Program (Town Hall)
9:30-Midnight	Teen Dance (Town Hall)
3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30	Heidi Puppet Show (Town Hall)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

7:00-10:00 a.m.	Chuckwagon Breakfast (Town Square)
8:00-9:00 a.m.	Midway Band
8:00 a.m.	Swiss Market Opens
	10,000 Meter Runs Begins (Front of Town Hall)
10:00 a.m.	Parade
11:00-11:45 p.m.	Post Office Band
12:00-12:45 p.m.	Midway Children's Chorus
1:00 p.m	Auction (The Gazebo)
	Swiss Miss Contest (Town Hall)